

OCTOBER 29, 1988
JORDAN TIMES
Attempts to visit
legally

New Labour-Likud unity in offing

TEL AVIV (AP) — Representatives of the right-wing Likud bloc and its rival, the Labour Party, said Saturday they would agree to another "national unity" government if neither wins a clear majority in Tuesday's elections. Polls published Friday predicted either a Likud victory or a coalition. The two major parties have governed jointly in a unity government for the past four years, following a tie in the 1984 elections. "I prefer a national unity government, with just Likud and Labor," said Shlomo Meri Shlomo, an outgoing parliament member. "I'd even go further and say, let's declare a ceasefire for two terms, so we can determine the country's priorities and implement them without interruptions." But Labour campaign manager Nissim Zivhi said his party would agree to a "national unity" government only as an interim measure, until new elections could be held. "If there is a complete tie and neither of the big parties can establish a government, I would suggest to Likud that we continue the 'national unity' government for six months," until new elections could be held in April, 1989, Zivhi said.

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AROUND THE WORLD...

Waldheim, Assad discuss Mideast

DAMASCUS (R) — Austrian President Kurt Waldheim and Syrian leader Hafez Al Assad held talks Saturday on Lebanon's political crisis and other Middle East developments, officials said. They said Assad, in a ceremony at his presidential palace, presented the former U.N. secretary general with Syria's highest award, the Umayyad Medal, in recognition of his work for peace. Waldheim presented Assad with Austria's Grand Star Medal and praised his efforts to promote world peace.

Egypt, Israel pledge to respect Taba ruling

CAIRO (R) — Egypt and Israel have agreed to extend the deadline for implementation of an international ruling on their Taba dispute which expired Saturday. Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid said, "The two parties have agreed to send a joint letter to the court emphasising their respect for the ruling," he told reporters. The minister said both sides asked the five arbitrators, who spent two years studying the dispute over the 700-metre Sinai beach, to stay in session till Nov. 30.

Tlas begins Moscow visit

MOSCOW (R) — Syrian Defence Minister Mostafa Tlas arrived in Moscow Saturday for official talks expected to centre on Syrian purchases of Soviet arms. The TASS news agency said Tlas was welcomed at the airport by his Soviet counterpart Dmitry Yazov. It gave no details of his agenda in Moscow.

Maghreb states vow to work for greater union

FEZ, Morocco (R) — Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania, Tunisia and Libya — have agreed to work for Maghreb union by coordinating their foreign, economic and financial policies. A statement issued at the end of a high-level meeting of the five countries Friday said proposals for cooperation similar to Western Europe's Common Market would be put to a summit of Maghreb heads of state early next year. The statement, carried by the Moroccan News Agency MAP, said plans for harmonising education policies and guaranteeing citizens the right of free movement and residence would also be submitted.

ANC says local elections a failure

LUSAKA (R) — The African National Congress Saturday described South Africa's race-based municipal elections earlier this week as a failure and called on elected black councillors to resign. The national executive committee of the ANC, the main group fighting to topple South Africa's white minority government, said in a statement only a "pathetic minority" of black voters took part in Wednesday's elections for black, white, Indian and coloured local authorities. "South Africans in their overwhelming majority have rejected the apartheid elections with contempt," it said.

U.S. congressional team visits Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — Three aides to U.S. senators arrived in Iraq Saturday to discuss strains in relations caused by allegations of Iraqi use of chemical weapons, Western diplomats said. A senior source at the Foreign Ministry told reporters that the under-secretary for foreign affairs, Nizar Hamouda, would meet the three later.

Hirohito rests after transfusion

TOKYO (R) — Japan's Emperor Hirohito rested quietly Saturday morning after receiving a blood transfusion. The 87-year-old monarch was given a pint of blood late Friday, said palace official Kenji Maeda. Maeda said Hirohito continued to bleed internally.

4 ministers rejected in Zambian elections

LUSAKA (AP) — As Zambians Saturday awaited final results of national elections, officials said President Kenneth Kaunda was guaranteed a new five-year term. The southern African nation's tight-lipped founding father has won a mandate to continue stringent economic reforms from an electorate that chased from power four cabinet ministers. Their displeasure is a reflection of mounting popular discontent with official mismanagement and corruption. Two ministers of state also lost their seats in the 125-member national assembly.

China to open Saudi trade mission

BAHRAIN (R) — China is expected to open a trade office in Saudi Arabia, possibly as early as next year, Gulf-based diplomats said Saturday. The diplomats said such a move could eventually lead to Muslim Saudi Arabia and Communist China establishing diplomatic relations. However diplomatic relations could take several years because Saudi Arabia was reluctant to break ties with Taiwan, they said.

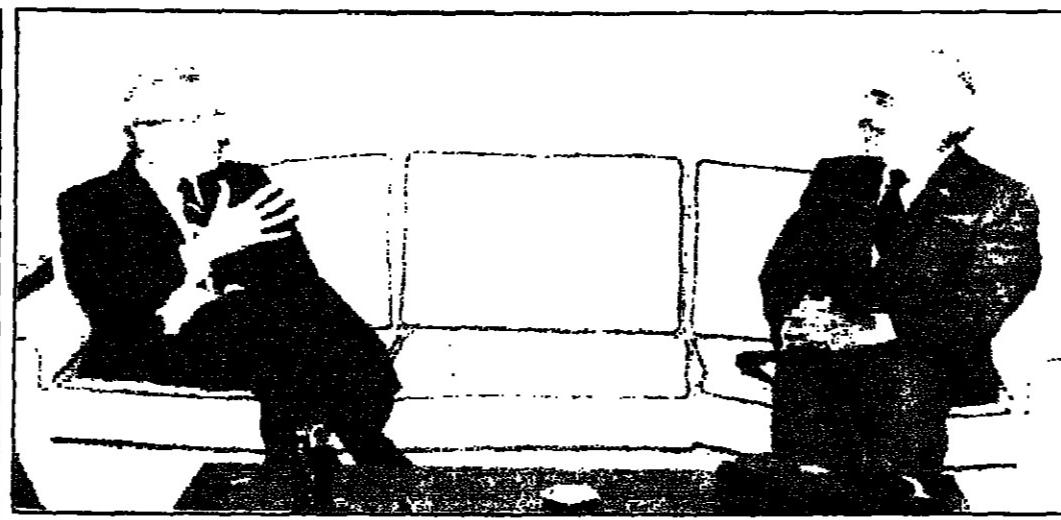
Serb, Kosovo leaders to meet Wednesday

BELGRADE (AP) — Communist officials from Serbia and its ethnic Troublesome province of Kosovo will meet Wednesday in the capital to discuss changing Kosovo's leadership, state-run newspapers reported Saturday. The meeting comes amid growing demands by the Kosovo's Serb and Montenegrin minority that the province's entire leadership be replaced. The session originally was scheduled for last Friday, but was postponed until next week because officials from Serbia and Kosovo "were occupied with other affairs," Vukasin Jokic, president of Kosovo's parliament, told a press conference.

Confusion over Philippine ferry victims

MANILA (AP) — Rescue workers searched Saturday for an estimated 150 people still missing after a passenger ship sank Monday during a typhoon, but authorities provided conflicting information on the number of survivors and victims. Reports on the number of survivors ranged from 194 people to 243, and officials offered varying totals on the number of bodies recovered, from 27 to 65. The conflicting information meant that more than 250 people could still be missing from among the estimated 500 people on board the Dona Marilyn when the ship sank Monday in rough seas at the height of typhoon Chashoggi is in S. Arabia, office says

JEDDAH (AP) — Saudi financier Adnan Khashoggi was in Saudi Arabia Saturday, his office manager in Riyadh said. "Yes, he is in the kingdom presently," said Sofian Yassine, manager of Khashoggi's firm. An arrest warrant has been issued in the United States for Khashoggi, a Saudi citizen pegged as the world's richest man. He is wanted in connection with fraud and racketeering charges filed against deposed Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos. The U.S. government is accusing him of using his wealth as a front for Marcos to help divert assets and hide Marcos' illegal activities.



His Majesty King Hussein Saturday confers with U.S. Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Strike, protests mark Kafr Kassem massacre

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and in Israel itself staged strikes and protests Saturday, the anniversary of the 1956 massacre of 46 Palestinian villagers by Israeli troops.

Palestinian sources said troops wounded at least seven protesters in widespread clashes in the occupied territories and Israel radio said the Palestinian flag was flown in Israeli Arab villages.

The sources said several hundred Israeli Arabs, joined by Jewish peace activists, marched in the village of Kafr Kassem where 32 years ago troops shot dead 46 unarmed Palestinians returning from work, apparently unaware that a curfew had been imposed there.

The sources said the marchers in Kafr Kassem chanted slogans condemning Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and backing the 11-month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

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National News

Ghandour; RJ to announce 2 important decisions on Dec. 15

AMMAN (J.T.) — Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national airline company will celebrate its 25th anniversary on Dec. 15 by surprising the public with new plans designed to promote the airline's operations and serve national tourism, according to RJ Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Ali Ghandour.

RJ plans to announce two important decisions on that date designed to help the Kingdom embark on a new informational and touristic progress by the year 1990, Ghandour said in a statement published by the Al Dustour Arabic Daily Saturday.

"Our 90 offices around the world serve air travel to Jordan and the rest of the world. They act as a catalyst to promote tourism and to attract tourist groups to the Kingdom's various attractions and places of interest," Ghandour noted.

He said to promote national tourism industry, RJ recently signed an agreement in Paris for the construction of a tourist village in Aqaba accommodating 600 guests, and two hotels one in Wadi Rum and the other in the ancient Nabatean city of Petra.

"RJ expects to transport no less than 25,000 tourists to the country by the year 1990 on an annual basis," Ghandour said.

RJ hopes to expand its present network to all parts of the world with the purpose of bolstering the national economy and promoting tourism, he said. "to maintain the



airline's fleet of aircraft RJ has set up a modern workshop and maintenance facilities that match those of Europe, and has training programmes for its personnel and those from other Arab airlines."

Ghandour announced that RJ made a revenue of JD 101 million in hard currency, spent JD 78 million and had a surplus of JD 23 million in 1987, and said that the Boeing company has stopped manufacturing this type of planes which will be banned from Europe and the USA by 1992," Ghandour explained.

"To promote tourism, RJ annually invites foreign writers, journalists, and other prominent personalities to visit Jordan, and organises conferences, cultural and folk festivals to serve the same cause," Ghandour noted.

He said RJ was now operating leased aircraft because it was found that leasing was more profitable than outright purchases.

"Planes that used to cost \$4 million to \$10 million are now worth \$60 to \$150 million, constituting a real burden for the government," Ghandour pointed

out. He said that RJ leases planes for periods ranging from 12 to 25 years and pays banks and other institutions which own the planes annual sums in rent.

RJ has now sold its Boeing 727 and the company has paid up all the loans and interests, on these planes simply because the Boeing company has stopped manufacturing this type of planes which will be banned from Europe and the USA by 1992," Ghandour noted.

The RJ chairman said that the national airline faces the problem of recruiting sufficient number of Jordanian girls to work as stewardesses on board its planes, and therefore it continues to employ foreigners.

He said RJ continues to train and recruit pilots who now number 350, of whom 90 per cent are Jordanians.

Ghandour said RJ does not plan any increases in the current airfare rates especially the long-distance flights.

place in two stages to offer a chance for the private as well as the public sectors to have a share in owning and operating the airline.

AMMAN (Petra) — The winner of a two-year research and study competition by scholars and historians on Jordanian history earlier this century will be honoured at a ceremony which will be held at the Ministry of Higher Education Thursday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

The award, called the King

Emirate of Transjordan between 1921 and 1946 and its relation to the Great Arab Revolt, the veteran Arabs who contributed to the establishment of the emirate, and the social and economic life of the emirate.

The Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al al Bait Foundation), which created the award, said that the competitors should tackle the creation and early development of the

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Syria rejects claims

(Continued from page 1)

Klibi urged Arab states and the international community to do more to stop Israel from carrying out air raids on southern Lebanon.

He said the presidential vacuum in Lebanon was encouraging the Israeli raids.

there was nobody between the soldiers and Neil."

Forty-five minutes after Cassidy was hospitalised, 40 soldiers surrounded the building. A dozen entered Cassidy's room and tried several times to encourage him to move to an Israeli hospital but Cassidy declined the offer.

Cassidy is now on his way back to the U.S. "Work on the book has been delayed somewhat because Neil has been shot, but we hope by early spring we will provide Americans with what has been built under occupation and against occupation."

AJLOUNI RETURNS: Tourism Minister Zuhair Ajlouni and the accompanying delegation Saturday returned home at the conclusion of a seven-day visit to Turkey. While in Turkey, Ajlouni signed with the Turkish minister of tourism and national heritage an agreement providing for encouraging and consolidating cooperation in the field of tourist investment projects (Petra).

Ziya of Nablus — 5-year-old who paid the price in blood

(Continued from page 1)

perforated lung absorbed particles of food from a sandwich he had been eating at the time of the shooting.

Foreign journalist

On the same day, the first foreign journalist was shot by the Israeli army, also in Nablus. A plastic bullet caused a flesh wound in Neil Cassidy's right leg. The 37-year-old American photographer accompanied Dennis to the occupied West Bank for four and a half weeks. Both Cassidy and Dennis are working on a book on the intifada.

Cassidy was in Nablus to picture newly constructed homes for 12 families who were made homeless after the Israeli army demolished six homes and sealing of four homes during a one-week curfew on Nablus ending Oct. 14.

Bennis explained that the national leadership of the uprising called on the inhabitants of Nablus to defy the "shoot-to-kill" curfew as a response to the demolition of homes.

Although the Palestinians paid a high price in casualties, the leadership again called for the defiance of the curfew the following day. "And this time they asked carpenters, painters, plumbers, electricians to come to an unfinished construction site. Within 24 hours the site was transformed into 12 apartments, and the belongings of the families were moved the same day," according to Dennis.

When the curfew was lifted, Cassidy decided to visit the houses. His visit coincided with the visit of Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Troops patrolled the streets,

PLAZA

TIMES

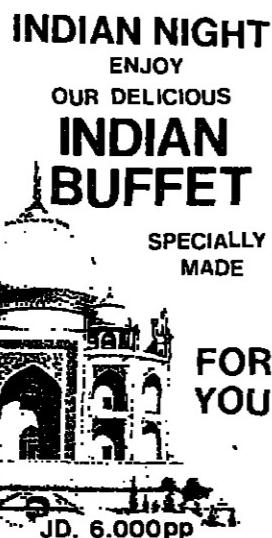
Friday

Sunday & everyday



JD. 5.500pp

Saturday



INDIAN NIGHT
ENJOY
OUR DELICIOUS
INDIAN BUFFET
SPECIAL MADE
FOR YOU

JD. 6.000pp

Sunday



LOBSTER NIGHT
At the
ANDALUSIA

JD. 8.000pp

Monday



PRIME RIB NIGHT
at the
COFFEE SHOP

Prime Rib,
Yorkshire Pudding
Baked Potato
Garden Peas
Followed by
Apple Pie & Cream
JD. 4.500pp

Tuesday



SHRIMP NIGHT
at the
ANDALUSIA

SEAFOOD Cocktail
Grilled Shrimps
or
Shrimps with Spinach Souffle
Fresh Summer Fruits
Coffee & Petit Fours
JD. 8.000pp

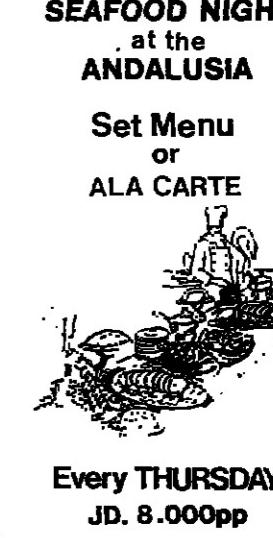
Wednesday



Spanish Speciality
Paella Night
at the
COFFEE SHOP

VEGETABLE & SAFFRON SOUP
SEAFOOD PAELLA
WITH GREEN SALAD
Sweets from our Buffet
JD. 4.500pp

Thursday



SEAFOOD NIGHT
at the
ANDALUSIA

Set Menu or ALA CARTE
Every THURSDAY
JD. 8.000pp

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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

14:30

Koran
Programmes
Football match
Laurel and Hardy
Local programme
Newsmagazine in Arabic
Local programme
Children programme
Programme review
News in Arabic
Local series
Programme review
Local programme
Arabic programme
News in Arabic
Programme from

14:30 La Chance aux chansons
18:30 L'ecole des Fans
News in French
Sauvage et Beau
News in Hebrew
Variety programme
News in Arabic
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NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

JORDANIAN-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP: President of the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society and First Deputy Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Bahjat Talhouni Sunday will be decorated with the Soviet "The Friendship of Peoples" Order at the Soviet Embassy (Petra).

NEW ZARQA BUS TERMINAL: Zarqa Municipality has announced a tender to construct a bus terminal, together with associated services and utilities. The municipality "projects committee" has invited a number of consultancy firms to prepare designs for a sports city to be set up at Jariba district (Petra).

NEW ITALIAN ENVOY: The Italian government has appointed Francesco De Caro as ambassador designate to Jordan to succeed Luigi Amaduzzi whose tour of duty here has ended. De Caro is due in Amman early in November to take up his duty (Petra).

GERMAN AIDE ARRIVES TODAY: A senior West German foreign ministry official, Helmut Shafaei, is due here Sunday on a five-day official visit to Jordan during which he will have talks with government officials notably Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, to discuss issues of common interest, after which the German official will also make a tour of a number of economic and touristic sites in the Kingdom (Petra).

AJLOUN FESTIVAL: The five-day literary cultural festival in Ajloun, which included a local book exhibition, painting exhibition, children drawing exhibition, and educational film shows, has ended (Petra).

SCHOOL HEALTH CURRICULUM: World Health Organisation (WHO) Eastern Mediterranean Regional Director Dr. Hussein Al Jaziri will arrive in Amman Sunday on a several-day visit during which he will discuss with senior officials relations between Jordan and WHO, and the possibility of a school health curriculum in Jordan (Petra).

DRUG DEALER JAILED: The military court has sentenced Mohammad Hassan Ali Farwati to ten years of imprisonment with hard labour and a fine of JD 7,000 for trafficking in heroine (Petra).

HADIDI RETIRES: Antiquities Department Director Adnan Al Hadidi has been retired in accordance with a cabinet decision. The retirement will take effect as of Nov. 1, 1988 (Petra).

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

ART EXHIBITIONS

- ★ A paintings exhibition by Sudanese artist Mohammad Khalil, at Al Wasiti Gallery, Plaza Hotel.
- ★ An art exhibition by Ahmed Na'wash at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ A plastic art exhibition by Iyad Al Masri at the Housing Bank Complex.
- ★ A paintings exhibition by Hind Nasser at the Royal Cultural Centre.

OTHER EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Annual book exhibition at Prince Hassan Secondary School, Karak.
- ★ An educational technology exhibition at the Yarmouk University.
- ★ A book exhibition at the civilian wing of Mu'ta University.
- ★ The Social Security Corporation exhibition which includes maps, charts, drawings and publications by the corporation at the Professional Association Complex, Irbid.
- ★ Islamic book exhibition at the Islamic Cultural Centre for Men in Karak.

CONCERT

- ★ A piano recital by Thalia Myers at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

LECTURE

- ★ A lecture by Jordanian Astronomy Amateurs Society members on recent topics at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 6:00 p.m.

FILM

- ★ A feature film entitled "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

Rifai holds talks with new Tunisian envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai conferred in his office Saturday with the newly appointed Tunisian Ambassador to Jordan Mohammad Al Muni Al Habib who had presented his credentials to His Majesty King Hussein on Oct. 16.

Al Habib succeeds Said Ben Mustapha who had served in his post since 1985.

The prime minister also Saturday received Italian Ambassador to Jordan Luigi Amaduzzi who has ended his tour of duty in Jordan.

University runs farm management programme

AMMAN (Petra) — A week-long training seminar on farm management opened in Amman Saturday with the participation of 25 researchers and agricultural engineers from the Ministry of Agriculture.

The participants will discuss matters related to the management of farms, such as decision on farm operations and crops, cost accounting of agricultural output and preparation of budgets for agricultural projects.

The director of projects department at the Ministry of Agriculture who opened the first session said the training seminar is designed to help pool expertise and experience from different farm

Committee probes further resources for Palestinians

AMMAN (Petra) — An Islamic committee of experts set up to draw up a plan to confront Israel's colonial plans in the occupied Arab territories has recommended a continued search for various resources to contribute to the process of supporting the steadfastness of the Palestinian people under Israeli rule, according to Dr. Ahmad Qatanani, director general of the Department of Palestinian Affairs.

Qatanani, who attended the committee meeting in Jeddah, said that discussion revolved around efforts to provide the Palestinians with means to counter and abort Israel's plans of establishing settlements in Arab-owned land.

Qatanani said he submitted to the nine-member committee a Jordanian memorandum outlining the dangers inherent in

Israel's colonial policies and escalated arbitrary measures against the Palestinian people now involved in a popular uprising.

He said that the committee which groups six Arab states including Jordan and three other Islamic nations emphasised the importance of carrying out further activities in the course of confronting Israel's colonial rule; and saluted the Palestinian uprising which, they said, was designed to liberate the usurped lands and reestablish the Palestinian people's rights.

The committee, which has been set up by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), has recommended that the OIC secretariat hold a joint meeting between the committee and the Jerusalem Fund's executive board to discuss means of developing the fund's resources.

Ministry seeks student help for olive harvests

AJLOUN (Petra) — The Ministry of Agriculture is seeking the help of schools and other organisations for farmers in the Ajloun district to harvest this year's olive crop.

A spokesman for a committee assigned to enlist help to the farmers Saturday issued an appeal to the public to help in the campaign to collect the olives

which is due to begin Nov. 1.

The appeal was issued following a policy meeting held at the Department of Agriculture here.

He added that the committee has asked local municipal and rural councils to prepare lists of farmers wishing to receive assistance in the olive harvest so that sufficient students can be allocated to help in the operation.

Regional seminar on technical cooperation opens

Kanaan blames bureaucracy for inefficient resource management

AMMAN (Petra) — A regional seminar on technical cooperation management and improving the efficiency of employees in the use of technical assistance provided by Arab and international organisations opened in Amman Saturday with the participation of eight Arab states.

bureaucracy and the poor performance and efficiency of some employees.

These problems, he said, adversely affect the organisation and planning of projects and hold up negotiations on agreements and the implementation of different stages of other schemes.

Wafiq Husni, representative of the World Bank who organised the seminar together with the Amman-based Arab Organisa-

tion of Administrative Sciences (AOAS) said that the World Bank normally allocates a good part of its financial resources and experience and skills to promote technical cooperation programmes.

The present seminar, he added, will serve as a good contribution to the improvement of technical cooperation programmes in the Arab countries, Husni said.

Other speakers included the director of the World Bank's Economic Development Institute and the AOAS's director general, both of whom expressed hope that the delegates will arrive at constructive recommendations and resolutions.

Taking part in the seminar are delegates from Jordan, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Tunisia, North and South Yemen, Lebanon and representatives of a number of Arab and international organisations.



Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan Saturday opens regional seminar on technical cooperation in Amman (Petra photo)

Fire destroys Marka nylon factory

AMMAN (Petra) — A huge fire in Marka early Saturday razed a nylon-bag factory to the ground and caused extensive damage to a number of residential flats on the second floor and a nearby garage, but no casualties.

Dudin said he toured a number of Indian states, met with their regional labour ministers, inspected industrial and labour environments and installations.

The minister also met with representatives of Indian organisations which are currently implementing projects in Jordan.

The CDD was informed of the

fire at around 2:30 in the morning Saturday and the first fire engine reached the factory four minutes later.

10 people were able to rescue themselves from their homes, and succeeded in preventing the fire from spreading to other areas, and by 6 a.m. the fire was out.

Investigation is now underway to determine the causes of the fire that razed the factory which operated around the clock, according to CDD Director General Khaled Tarawneh.

Tarawneh expressed the view that carelessness might have caused the fire.

Previous fires of the same nature in Amman had been deliberate, he noted, started by owners in their homes, and succeeded in order to get compensation from insurance companies.

He advised factories which deal with inflammable materials to take extra precautionary measures and added that the CDD will take strict measures against those who try to tamper with the country's economic interests.

Hang out at the Marriott this Halloween!

Al Rababa's ghoulish cauldron is here again. Join us for a spectacular evening of live music, mischief, and merriment all Halloween night (31 October) starting at 8:30 pm.

When games, prizes and food, all have that spellbinding touch!

Don't be too scared to venture out and miss the enchantment, have a fiendishly good time!

Dress up, drink up, eat up!

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HALLOWEEN!

AMMAN (J.T.) — If you thought you saw an unusual number of witches, pumpkins, pirates, Superman, mummies, goblins and assorted brands of monsters riding in the back seats of cars Saturday around the 6th Circle area of Jabal Amman, you saw correctly — for the children of the Abdul Hamid Sharaf School had donned their Halloween best for their school's annual celebration of the day before All Saints Day. The accompanying photos reflect the variety and ingenuity of the costumes prepared by the children and their parents.



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
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Breaking the ice

THE noble mission undertaken by the United States and the Soviet Union to rescue two whales trapped in the frozen waters of Alaska is an exemplary case of superpower cooperation. The vigilance over the fate of the two giant mammals marooned just a mile from the open sea, and the actual work done by the Soviet ice-breaker and American helicopters to cut the ice formations around the two whales, reflect a fine human concern that proves that there is a streak of remarkable caring that permeates even the powerful nations of the world. And hopefully, this outstanding manifestation of goodwill towards man's fellow creatures can be nurtured and emulated elsewhere in the four corners of the earth where there is a clear shortage of humanitarianism and compassion.

There are many regional and international conflicts and disputes that are also trapped in a political quagmire and caused, in part at least, by superpower rivalries. Such enmeshed human problems still await similar superpower cooperation to break the ice, as it were, from around them. If Moscow and Washington can have the heart and will to save the lives of two whales, surely they must also have the compassion and the political will to save humanity everywhere from the scourges of wars and destruction. We are not thinking only in terms of Middle East conflicts, but rather have in mind the problems that afflict all humanity, whether in Latin America, Africa, Asia or Europe.

The beautiful and almost fairy tale episode of the two whales needs to proliferate and multiply to impact on man as well. The whales in question had a short distance to go before reaching safe waters and sanctuary. Mankind, on the other hand, has thousands of miles to travel before reaching safe haven.

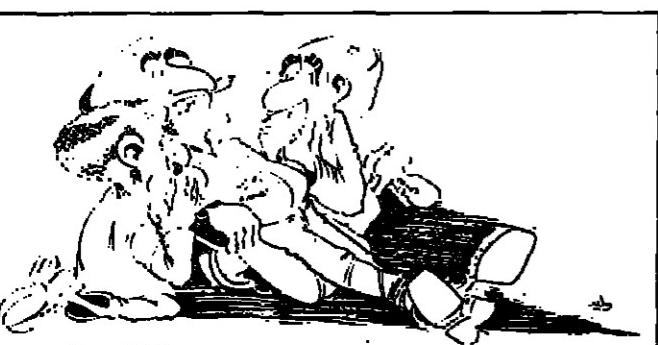
In this sense, we envy the two whales which garnered the attention and concern of Moscow and Washington, and completed their journey to peace, stability and a normal life.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Saturday discussed the coming Israeli parliamentary elections and said that the Arabs do not bet on which party will win, because the result will not be the only factor that can revive the peace process. The paper said that an Arab unified action and strong Arab stand are the important factors for the future of the Middle East; and for this reason Jordan has supported Iraq and seeks to find a solution for the Lebanese crisis. Jordan, it added, wants to pool the resources of all Arab states in the face of the common challenges. The current flurry of diplomatic contacts among Arab leaders, the paper noted, are designed to mobilise Arab countries' efforts to achieve that goal. The situation in the Arab World and not the results of the coming elections in Israel should be the basis for the Arab nation's strategy, the paper said.

Al Dustour daily commented Saturday on a statement by the Central Bank's Deputy Governor Maher Shukri as published in Al Dustour, and said that the statement is marked with optimism following the recent government regulations concerning the exchange rates. Shukri, it said, has given detailed explanation of the government measures, thus putting an end to rumours and undue apprehension on the part of the public. Shukri's statements that the exchange rates are stabilising and that the dollar will witness further decline brought about relief to the Jordanian citizens in general and the merchants and importers in particular, the paper added. What is more reassuring, the paper said, is Shukri's announcement that the government harbours no plans to restrict any expatriates' withdrawal of their capital. The statement, it added, will no doubt help bring about stability to the money markets in Jordan.

Sawt Al Shaab daily discussed the crisis in Lebanon and said that the situation there is becoming more intolerable and threatening grave consequences. Lebanon is an Arab country which had contributed to the development in the Arab World and has faced with the Arab states all the consequences of external challenges and it is therefore imperative for the Arab Nation to come to the aid of that country and help it reach peace, the paper noted. The paper said that Arab leaders ought to heed King Hussein's call for extending support to efforts designed to bring about peace to Lebanon and to safeguard its unity and territorial integrity.



ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Decent life

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Saturday calls on the government to take urgent measures to ensure that citizens with limited income would continue to live decently within their means as they used to do before the recent rise in prices. The various seminars and the discussions can by no means bring any hope to the ordinary citizen, especially those employees with limited income who see their wages being eroded by the new high prices that make it impossible to cope with the new situation, the writer, Fakheri Kaawar notes. What the small employees and the ordinary citizens are concerned about is whether they would be able to buy vegetables, fruit and meat to feed their families and whether their children can still buy school requirements and clothes, Kaawar adds. He urges the concerned authorities to make a detailed study of the employees' income and decide on measures to ensure a reasonably decent life for this sector of the Jordanian public.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Economic measures — why now?

THE economic measures recently taken by the government can be classified under three categories. First, the simplification of entry to and exit from the market. Licensing was practically abolished and replaced by simple registration of new industries. Second, the flotation of the interest rate and exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar by the Central Bank of Jordan, which resulted in a decline from its overvalued level to a more reasonable and realistic value. Third, a cut in the budget deficit to be achieved by a reduction in recurring expenses and cancellation or postponement of capital expenditure.

Many objected to these measures, but we are not aware of any alternative policies being put forward by those who objected. For our part, we did not object to any of these measures because we had been demanding them repeatedly since 1982. However, we can express strong reservations concerning the timing. The government should have taken these measures several years ago. Earlier action would have been more potent and effective. Adjustment could have started in more comfortable circumstances, and measures could have been taken from a position of strength rather than taking them as a last resort when there were no more options available.

However, I do understand the political factors which tempt a politician in office to avoid making the tough decisions which could cause complaints and result in a loss or damage to popularity.

Inactivity is perhaps even more tempting in the Middle East, where regional and international circumstances may change abruptly and without advance warning. Apparently, some officials were hoping that something will happen and help us out of troubles, such as a happy end of the Gulf war, a substantial rise in world oil prices, an international conference and a peaceful solution of the Middle East crisis followed by an Israeli withdrawal, a massive Arab or foreign financial aid, or any other crucial development which could alter the steady deterioration of the fundamentals of the economy and imbalances in trade and payments.

Because I do understand these political factors, I was genuinely afraid that the government may not act until after they sell the monetary gold owned by the Central Bank and use all its proceeds to postpone the moment of truth.

Although the government was late in taking action, I should admit with all fairness that it could have waited six months or one

year more, by liquidating the one million ounces of gold carried by Central Bank, and consuming their proceeds in supporting the Jordanian dinar just as it allowed the melt down and consumption of all the country's once excellent reserves of convertible currencies in pursuing this unrealistic goal and putting the Jordanian economy and the national security at the service of a strong dinar instead of the opposite.

The important thing is that the adjustment has finally started while the Central Bank of Jordan still owns bullion worth of \$410 million, over and above the remaining convertible dollars, little as they may be, which lends them a measure of credibility.

I personally draw comfort from the role I played last year in the local press to make the sale of gold look as a politically embarrassing operation, which should not be undertaken except as a last resort and only after facing the situation with a comprehensive package of economic policies, along with clear targets and timetable. This has not fully happened yet, but we have had a good start and have summoned the nerve to go ahead.

The real test of the seriousness of the government is the 1989 budget, now under preparation. It is the signal to the market and the people what correction or lack of it, is in store.

superpowers to determine the question of governability.

In the final analysis, however, it is the domestic dynamics of politics which determine the capacity of government. There is a direct correlation between this capacity and the consent it receives. In the last two decades or so we have witnessed an increasing tendency on the part of ethnic and religious communities to assert a separate corporate identity in many parts of the world. There is of course nothing unusual about this when it is done within the institutionalised framework of any given state. It becomes a menace when the existing institutions are unable to accommodate these claims. Defiance, disruption and rebellion, against the accepted modes of conducting public affairs and the resolutions of conflict, become a convenient resort. There is little doubt that unless these assertions can be subsumed and accommodated they will present a challenge to government, undermining its capacity to govern.

Governability is just as adversely affected by natural and man-made disasters as by the systems governing international relations. Floods, drought and famine have been only too familiar occurrences. Chernobyl has been overshadowed by the conclusion of the INF treaty and the continuing talks on the reduction of strategic weapons, but the spectre of atomic arms proliferation and the dreaded nuclear winter still threaten mankind. Those dangers have a habit of ignoring territorial integrity as they recognise no national boundaries. A body with which I have been associated, the International Commission on Humanitarian Issues, has published several monographs pointing out the implications of these phenomena. If they are seriously to be dealt with they have to be addressed collectively. Bilateralism in this respect is self-defeating. The spectacle of famine and food mountains on either side of a lake, the Mediterranean, is not a problem for just France and the Sudan, Germany and Ethiopia or Britain and Uganda, but for all of them. Equally so the floods of Bangladesh are not a question of flood control in that country. The root cause lies far upstream, and the problem of deforestation has to be tackled by Bangladesh, Nepal and India, amongst many others.

The October 1987 crash came swiftly in the wake of the World Bank annual meetings in Washington in September. It is ironic that the need for increased international cooperation and coordination in dealing with the major economic issues facing the world was the overriding theme of the Washington meetings of last year. The three ugly sisters of external debt, exchange rates instability and trade imbalances seemed to have been joined by a fourth — the crisis in the financial markets.

Modernisation brought in its wake some tangible problems. The first is international indebtedness. The anxiety of the developing countries to achieve a higher standard of living for their people was matched by the enthusiasm of the international bankers to lend huge sums which most of these countries could not afford to borrow, let alone repay.

The straight jackets in which they find themselves have led many of them to abandon their programme to the disillusionment of their people. Austerity and credit restrictions have inevitably led to the rescheduling of debts. They may have to be written off leaving a number of white elephants as permanent monuments to the folly of man, and hopefully a reminder that this kind of thing should not happen again. However, the only result is a damage to the capacity of government to govern well, and an uncertain future.

The complexity of modern living which impairs governability and creates uncertainty is not confined to the increasing demands on government to assume more and deplete resources by spreading them widely and more thinly, but it is also influenced by the method and means deployed to overcome these difficulties. Countries of the third world are desperate to escape the poverty trap and have had to contend with two concomitant problems which make government difficult and the future uncertain.

They have embarked on a process of modernisation. This process has entailed the overhaul of government, galvanising the economy, shaking up society, reforming old institutions and introducing new ones to cope with the provisions set out to be necessary for a modern state. The device by which this process is followed is a development programme. All third world countries have them and some are commendable, not only in the conceptual framework they have adopted, but in implementation as well. The tragedy is

that within this spirit that Jordan has been advocating the idea of regional and inter-regional cooperation for economic development to overcome various discrepancies in the provision of economic resources within a

Eurasian framework. It seeks the integrated development of the Asian Rim of Europe, or the European Rim of Asia, in cooperation with the leading industrial nations in Europe, North America and the Far East on the one hand, and with countries of South Asia on the other. A plan of this kind can provide an answer to the political and economic problems of the most disturbed region in the world and forms the basis for closer linkages with Europe and Asia so that a more harmonious and balanced pattern of economic power evolves amongst the different regions of the world.

The interdependence of the world community in its different regions is indivisible. The Octo-

"It is clear that governability is not simply influenced by the complexity of domestic politics, the scarcity of economic resources and the increasing demands made upon them, but by the way and manner in which international relations are conducted."

ber 1987 stockmarket crash came swiftly in the wake of the World Bank annual meetings in Washington in September. It is ironic that the need for increased international cooperation and coordination in dealing with the major economic issues facing the world was the overriding theme of the Washington meetings of last year. The three ugly sisters of external debt, exchange rates instability and trade imbalances seemed to have been joined by a fourth — the crisis in the financial markets.

The October 1987 crash, according to some estimates, cost the surplus Arab nations more than \$25 billion. This loss came at a time of a sharp economic slowdown in the Arab region as a whole. A basic reappraisal of conventional investment criteria, both at the international and regional levels, is clearly warranted.

However, the recent IMF and World Bank meetings were held against a more optimistic backdrop. New forecasts by the IMF indicate that the world economy has overcome the after-effects of Black Monday. The IMF forecast a boom in the developed world this year, but the developing countries have not been doing so well. One modest mark of progress was the agreement to write off debts or reduce interest paid by sub-Saharan African countries. Nevertheless, some analysts still question the sustainability of the current international economic situation and ominously predict future crashes with dire consequences for the global economy.

It can hardly be overemphasised that major international economic issues facing the Superpowers and other industrial countries should be tackled in full coordination with the challenges facing the developing countries. These challenges are multidimensional and go beyond the Third World debt crises.

Summit at the Superpower and G7 level emphasises the basic interdependence of the world community. A parallel mechanism, dealing with the concerns of the developing nations and with urgent regional issues, will avoid asymmetry and complement the efforts of leaders to promote world stability and progress. To be sure, regional efforts and perspectives for development can only serve to underpin global peace and prosperity. Jordan, for its part, has initiated a dialogue on these issues with a number of regional countries and others from the leading industrial nations. I do not feel too sanguine about the prospects and the eventual outcome.

Middle East News

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY OCTOBER 30, 1988 5

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Pope urges spread of peace message

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope John Paul II Friday urged Christians and Muslims to work together in their countries to spread the message of peace. The Pope spoke to a group of Muslims and Christians from Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania and Sudan. The group ended a three-day meeting in Assuit Friday that sought to improve cooperation and understanding between Muslims and Christians. "The challenge before you is to spread the message of peace, to practice peace in your homes and neighbourhoods, and places of work, to make peace where there is none, to build understanding and peaceful cooperation between Muslims and Christians in your own countries," the Pope said.

Egyptian professors observe one-day strike

ASSUIT, Egypt (AP) — More than 1,000 university professors at Assuit University staged a 24-hour strike Saturday to protest alleged mistreatment of a colleague by a police officer. Mohammad Habib, a Muslim fundamentalist member of parliament and head of the university's teaching faculty club, warned that if security authorities continued to ignore the incident, similar strikes would be held in universities all over the country. Assuit University campuses and branches in the nearby southern cities of Sohag, Qena and Aswan, were empty Saturday. The strike was to end Sunday morning.

No more hostage releases in Reagan era'

NEW YORK (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi said Friday he did not expect that any more American hostages in Lebanon would be released during the Reagan administration, CBS television news reported. Asked in an interview if in his personal opinion there was a chance the U.S. hostages could be freed soon, Qadhafi said through a translator: "Not under Reagan's administration, anyway."

Jews should not fear arms sales to Arabs'

LOS ANGELES (R) — President Reagan, backing a remark by Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci, said Friday that American Jews and members of Congress should not object when the United States proposes arms sales to moderate Arab states. "Our judgment should be respected on when we have decided that we

can make a sale of that kind," said Reagan, responding to a question from the audience following a speech to the Los Angeles World Affairs Council. Carlucci, in an October 21 speech to the American Arab Affairs Council in Huntington, West Virginia, said critics in Congress and elsewhere should stop objecting to major arms deals with friendly Arab countries.

Relief groups negotiating with Sudan

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States said Friday international relief agencies are negotiating with the Sudanese government and rebel groups to deliver food to a town where 8,000 people were reported to have died of starvation. State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley said the talks involved an arrangement to "provide equal relief" to the government-held town of Aweil, where the 8,000 deaths were reported, and the rebel-held town of Akon. The New York Times reported Friday that after two weeks of trying the United States had been blocked from delivering food to Aweil in southern Sudan.

Iran marks death of Khomeini aide

NICOSIA (R) — Iran Saturday marked the death of one of the men who helped spread the Islamic revolution of its spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. Ayatollah Ruhollah Khatami died from an unspecified illness at a Tehran hospital Thursday. He was 84. The Iranian news agency IRNA, monitored in Cyprus, said Khatami, the father of Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mohammad Khatami, campaigned against ignorance during his lifetime. In June, 1963, just before Khomeini was exiled to Iraq, he commissioned Khatami to spread his writings to the people of Iran who were struggling against the shah's rule. IRNA said.

Amnesty: People still tortured in Turkey

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — The Belgian branch of Amnesty International Friday alleged people were still being jailed and tortured for political reasons in Turkey. Representatives of the Belgian organisation claimed at a news conference that five prisoners had died under torture during the first half of this year. They said that thousands of political prisoners were still in Turkish jails, most of them jailed after a fake trial. "Any person arrested for political motives still risks being tortured in Turkey," the Belgian spokesman said.

Tehran moves closer to compromise, links troop withdrawal to navigation

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Iran's U.N. ambassador said Friday that his government will give up its right to search ships for war material bound for Iraq if the agreement is linked to a withdrawal of troops from the battle front.

Ambassador Mohammad Jafar Mahallati insisted, however, that Iran will never consider abandoning or renegotiating the 1975 treaty that defines the southern border between Iran and Iraq as running down the middle of the Shatt Al Arab waterway.

The issues of waterway rights and freedom of navigation have deadlocked the Iran-Iraq peace talks.

The negotiations opened Aug. 25 in Geneva, shifted to New York at the end of September, and reconvene Monday in Geneva.

On Wednesday, Iraqi ambassador Ismail Kittani repeated Iraq's position that the treaty must be renegotiated to guarantee Iraq's use of the passage, now blocked by sunken ships, unexploded ordnance and an eight-year accumulation of silt.

Kittani said Iran must agree to begin dredging the waterway and must guarantee Iraq's right of free navigation in the Gulf and Strait of Hormuz, halting its seashore of ships bearing military cargo to Baghdad.

Mahallati, who two weeks ago

said Iran would "never relinquish its right" to seize war cargo until a final peace treaty was signed, took one step toward compromise.

"We are ready to accept a logical interlock between the question of troops withdrawal and the cessation of our right to search ships in the Gulf," he told reporters.

Thousands of Iranian and Iraqi troops are dug in along their 1,900-kilometre front line, which has been quiet since a ceasefire took effect Aug. 20.

A U.N. report issued this week, however, warns of the

volatile situation on the front, where the troops are only 10 metres apart in places.

U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and the Security Council have called on both sides to solidify their truce by withdrawing to the internationally recognised border.

Kittani also seemed to express a more flexible Iraqi stance.

Wednesday, when he said that under any agreement over waterway rights, both nations would have the right to use the passage,

Mahallati said Iraq's real goal was to abrogate the 1975 treaty and gain control over the waterway, which had been Iraq's principal sea lane.

The 1975 agreement cannot be touched, revised, amended, modified," said the Iranian ambassador.

A gap remains between the Iranian and Iraqi positions, although their differences have narrowed since the round of talks in New York a month ago.

In Charleston, South Carolina, hundreds of family members and friends gathered to welcome

home sailors on four U.S. guided missile frigates that escorted six Kuwaiti oil tankers in the Gulf.

The four Oliver Hazard Perry-class ships, with about 800 sailors altogether, returned home to Charleston naval base on Friday, six months to the day after they left.

The ships left Charleston on April 25 with the U.S. navy's Middle East task force, escorting convoys of Kuwaiti tankers and other neutral vessels.

British continue mine-clearing operations

British minehunters are leading an international operation to clear mines from a 483-kilometre-long shipping lane in the Gulf, the Foreign Office said Friday.

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vessels have been in the Gulf since September 1987 and have cleared large areas of mines to allow the free flow of world shipping.

The MiG-27 is designed to attack ground targets with bombs, cannon and missiles, the officials said. The United States learned of the deployment from satellite photographs, administration officials told the Times.

One State Department official said it appears the Soviets are getting ready for more offensive operations in Afghanistan. The Times reported. However, a Defense Department official suggested the planes might be intended to protect Soviet troops from rebel attacks during the next phase of their withdrawal.

Under a U.N.-sponsored accord signed in Geneva last spring, Moscow agreed to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan between May 15 and next Feb. 15. United Nations observers said the Kremlin met its pledge to complete the removal of half of the troops by Aug. 15, but no major Soviet troop withdrawals have taken place since then.

Moscow recently hinted it may alter its pullout timetable because of alleged interference by Pakistan and United States. The rebels, armed mainly by Washington, operate from bases inside Pakistan.

Earlier this week, the chairman of the Afghan rebel alliance, Burhanuddin Rabbani, said the Soviets were deploying new high-altitude TU-16 "bombers" in Afghanistan. The report in the Times said State Department officials denied that assertions.

U.S. report: Soviets moved advanced fighter planes into Afghanistan

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. officials say they may protest the deployment by the Soviet Union of 30 advanced ground attack

planes in Afghanistan, the New York Times reported Saturday.

The newspaper quoted unidentified State Department officials

as saying the Soviet MiG-27 jets arrived at Shindand air base in western Afghanistan about a week ago.

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Nearly \$10 million will be needed over five years to reestablish this vital resource.

Another priority is to cope with the four to five million mines which have been planted and distributed throughout Afghanistan, said to be approximately 28 different types and manufactured in countries which include the Soviet Union, USA, U.K., China and Italy. Not all are massive heavy-duty mines and thousands of children have been maimed by anti-personnel mines which have been manufactured in the shape of toys, radios, butterflies and tablets of chocolate.

This is no longer the case — and the U.N. programme envisages spending \$220 million in the first 18 months for agriculture alone. Three-quarters of this would go towards supplying seeds, fertilizer, farm tools and draught animals. The remainder is intended for the agricultural infrastructure, with emphasis on providing credit, veterinary and crop extension services, and the establishment of tree nurseries, both for fruit and fuelwood.

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IMF chief urges industrial growth to break poverty in Third World

PARIS (R) — IMF Governor Michel Camdessus said Friday that the industrial world had to foster economic growth to haul developing nations out of a cycle of poverty and debt.

He told the influential Club of Rome, which in the 1970s advocated a slowdown in economic growth, that the Third World could shake off its debt shackles by expanding economically, and the developed world had to help.

Camdessus, regarded as the world's top finance official in his post as head of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), addressed the annual meeting of the club, a key group of government leaders, scientists, economists and businessmen.

The club, founded 20 years ago, seeks to influence national policies by recommending new strategies for solving world problems.

"It is only if growth is sustained in the industrialised countries of the developed world that the

major dangers ahead was the erection of national trade barriers.

"Every day we say we're all against protectionism and every day the industrial countries reinforce protectionism," he said.

"If we have growth in industrial countries, if we have a more open trade system, if we have an international monetary system should be reformed to provide more stability, and the flow of money out of the Third World and back to the developed world must be stopped."

Camdessus told his audience: "I know that if we give you growth, you will give us development."

He warned that one of the

early 1970s with the publication of its first report, "The Limits of Growth."

The report's underlying theme was that world resources were finite and could not support unending industrial growth.

Translated into 37 languages, the report reached an edition of 10 million and was seized upon by an emerging world environmental movement for the idea that food and energy supplies would run out unless there was an agreed halt in both economic expansion and population growth.

The idea took such strong root that it overshadowed the club's claims that "The Limits to Growth" represented just one of many divergent opinions among

its 100 co-opted members.

But Camdessus, without referring to the report, said growth was the only solution to cutting the \$1,200 billion Third World debt back to manageable proportions.

"A world-wide strategy for growth is indispensable," he said.

Present discussions between the West's major Group of Seven (G-7) nations revolved around beating global economic cycle of expansion and recession, and keeping growth buoyant.

"Discussions are aimed at getting rid of this cycle and doing it while growth continues because we know that we can't simply get ourselves into another recession," Camdessus said.

CBJ consolidates dinar stability

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two weeks after implementing Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) measures, the government has succeeded in restoring stability to the Jordan dinar in the local market, CBJ Deputy Governor Maher Shukri was quoted as saying Saturday.

He said that he expected the U.S. dollar to fall to 400 fils against the Jordanian dinar in the medium term and that the local banking system has demonstrated "excellent cooperation" with the central bank to help bring about the current stability.

He told Al Dustour that the central bank intervened several times in the local market to calm the flurry in the market and pointed out that the CBJ did not request from commercial banks to stop opening letters of credit for merchants but that banks acted at their own discretion.

Shukri said he expected a decline in the dollar's value in international markets, describing this decline as a necessary adjustment of the American economy.

"It is normal that this decline manifests itself in the local market," he said.

He warned that people carrying dollars may face losses if they continued to keep their assets in dollars, pointing to speculators who bought the Iraqi dinar at 550 fils and are now selling it for 300 fils and the Lebanese pound which reached 350 pounds for the dollar, only to slide to 520 pounds.

The deputy governor said that the best investment of saving was buying shares of Jordanian companies and investing inside the Kingdom.

Commenting on reports that the banks have stopped opening letters of credit to businessmen upon central bank instructions, Shukri said the CBJ did not issue any instructions demanding that

banks stop these credits.

He explained that the move was a decision by the commercial banks themselves and that a freeze of credit during the flurry turned in favour of the banks and the credit applicants themselves.

The CBJ official said that the private sector maintained a surplus from exports and remittances from expatriates as well as investments, resident and non-resident deposits — enough to cover the needs of the private sector and to cover imports, treatment and travel spending.

"This situation calls for optimism because the private sector is capable of covering its needs while the public sector suffers a deficit especially after the decline of official Arab financial assistance," he noted.

Asked whether there were any new foreign exchange instructions to follow, he said that the economy was in need of some time to absorb the consequences of the recent measures and that no new instructions were imminent.

On the rate adjustment of the dinar, he said there had been an overall cut of 14 per cent and that it came to adjust the dinar's exchange rate and protect the country's foreign exchange reserves.

Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce President Mohammad Asfour, said in a report published Saturday that the government's economic measures constituted a change in the government's priorities towards increasing the foreign exchange revenues and encouraging exports.

He pointed out that the measures would lead to increases in prices of many local and imported goods and an increase in customs duties, triggering a new wave of inflation that could be controlled.

Israel faces economic woes

TEL AVIV (AP) — As Labour Party leader Shimon Peres walked through a crowded town market on a hand-shaking campaign tour, a loyalist from the rival Likud bloc confronted him with an angry question.

"I worked at Alliance Tire for 20 years, and now I've lost my job," the man screamed. "What are you going to do about it?"

Peres, upset by hecklers drowning out his speech, shouted back that the man should apply for unemployment.

The acrimonious scene was a reminder that, although the Palestinian uprising has been the focus of Israel's election campaign, economic problems will be a major task facing whoever is in office once the electioneering ends.

Possible recession

Economists are warning of a possible recession, a growing crisis facing Israeli industry and a sharp rise in unemployment. Several large unions are threatening strikes even as election day approaches.

The economy cropped up in the campaign last week when the government had to bail out Koor, the nation's largest industrial conglomerate, after it defaulted on a \$20 million loan.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir immediately turned that into a rallying cry for an end to Labour's

backed policies that traditionally have preserved jobs regardless of the cost.

"The concept of the Labour Party belongs to the past, it belongs to East Europe at the beginning of the century," said Shamir, in a speech calling for a "free economy and free enterprise."

Peres, although he has a say in the coalition government along with Shamir, responded by blaming Likud for tight money policies and high interest rates that have hampered industrial growth and moved the economy precariously close to recession.

"Today there are 3,000 plants in distress," Peres charged in a televised debate with Shamir. "What plant can pay 30 per cent or 35 per cent interest? This entire policy rocks the economy."

Ironically, economists say, Israel's current industrial problems stem in part from its success in dealing with another economic evil faced when the coalition came to power — inflation.

In 1984, consumer prices were rising a record 445 per cent a year. The Labour-Likud coalition government in July 1985 enacted an "emergency stabilisation programme" with wage and price freezes, stringent monetary controls and tight budget policies that have brought inflation down to about 16 per cent a year.

Although the government has eased up since to allow limited wage and price increases, con-

tinuing high interest rates and strict exchange rate controls have squeezed business profits.

Uprising cost millions

In addition, the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip has cost millions of dollars to the tourist industry and other businesses, such as construction and textiles, which traditionally depend on Arab workers.

One Western-trained economist, who insisted on anonymity, predicted that the Israeli economy would grow one per cent or less in 1988, well below the government's target of 3.7 per cent and down sharply from the 5.2 per cent growth in 1987.

Higher unemployment

The nation's unemployment rate has risen from 5.6 per cent at the end of 1987 to nearly six per cent in the first half of 1988, and some economists believe it hit seven per cent in the July-September quarter.

At the Israeli Manufacturers' Association, economist Moshe Nahum said statistics show a decline in industrial production and hours worked by employees in the first half of the year.

Exporters are suffering most, he said, with some selling at a loss because their costs are rising

rial output.

Only a few months earlier, the Histadrut's ailing Alliance Tire and Rubber Co. northeast of Tel Aviv was put in the hands of a state-appointed receiver, and Israeli banks put up \$8 million in emergency loans to keep the company afloat.

After a three-month closure, the plant was reopened Oct. 5 but 250 workers — such as the one who confronted Peres — were not rehired.

Shamir has hammered Peres for Histadrut's ills, but in fact the uneasy coalition between the two men's parties — with their opposite philosophies — has prevented the government from reaching long-term solutions to Israel's economic woes.

How voters will respond to the rhetoric remains unclear. Hanoch Smith, an independent pollster, says surveys so far have shown "a stand-off between the two main parties" on economic issues.

Peres' Labour appears more vulnerable than Likud because the Labour-Likud coalition government in July 1985 enacted an "emergency stabilisation programme" with wage and price freezes, stringent monetary controls and tight budget policies that have brought inflation down to about 16 per cent a year.

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Jordan-Far East sea link gets full support

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Czech economist warns of imbalance

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia (AP) — A leading Czechoslovak economist has warned that continued massive growth in the nation's outmoded heavy industries will prevent the rise of a normally functioning market and strangle economic reform before it starts. Vaclav Komarek said Czechoslovakia's economy shows "structural and global imbalance and permanent deficit" in both consumer and industrial markets. Komarek described current plans for new construction of nuclear and other power plants, chemical and metallurgical plants as "giants for a small country." Komarek said it will be impossible to achieve an economic balance and a new, decisive status for the consumer" if industrial investment proceeds as planned. "If the hypertrophy of heavy industry is not relatively quickly and drastically broken, it will not be possible to achieve the moral functioning of the market and the development of reforms will be hamstrung from the start," he said.

Poll reports wide support of ECU

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — Almost 90 per cent of European Community (EC) business leaders favour the European Currency Unit (ECU) as a common EC currency, according to the results of a survey. But while on average 86 per cent of business leaders favour the ECU, the survey of 1,036 executives found far fewer use the 10-year-old currency and many admit knowing little about it.

He also pledged the ministry's full support for such a plan. The NSL has undertaken a feasibility study of its plan to operate a seafarce linking Jordan with East Asia and found out that approximately 42 per cent of Jordan's imports, by containers or otherwise, come from the Far East.

This shows that the Far East ranks second after the United States in the volume of Jordanian imports.

In addition to this, the study noted that Jordan exports more than two million tonnes of phosphates to the Far East.

China to import fewer consumer goods

BEIJING (AP) — China will import fewer automobiles and other expensive consumer goods and ban purchases of foreign liquors and canned soft drinks next year as part of a drive to make better use of its foreign currency, a senior official has said. Wang Pinqing, vice minister of economic relations and trade, was quoted in the journal International Business as saying China will give priority to importing raw materials and technology to make the fullest possible use of the country's foreign currency, the official Xinhua news agency said Tuesday. Wang also urged local authorities in charge of foreign trade to crack down on profiteering, and said the central government next year will exercise stricter control over local management of foreign currency. China already strictly limits imports of expensive consumer goods such as passenger cars and household electrical appliances by imposing high tariffs.

Moscow to free share ownership

NEW YORK (R) — The Soviet Union, eager to lure more Western investment, has decided to allow foreign companies to own a controlling interest in Soviet joint ventures. Moscow's top foreign trade official said in an interview with the New York Times published Friday. Konstantin Katushev, minister of foreign economic relations, was quoted by the paper as saying that new laws to be introduced early next year would eliminate the current limit of 49 per cent foreign ownership and ease other restrictions on Western business operations in the Soviet Union. Katushev predicted that the new laws would not set any specific limit on foreign ownership, the paper said.

Olympic Airways buys 3 Boeing 767s

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Olympic Airways, the state-run carrier, will buy three Boeing 767-200s jetliners for a total of \$180 million, the airline announced Friday. Under an agreement signed Thursday, Boeing will deliver the wide-bodied jetliners from January-March 1990, the announcement said. Olympic chose the Boeings in July over the European-made Airbus 300 and 310, on the ground that a 767 costs \$48 million less than an Airbus. The Greek airline Thursday also signed an agreement to fit the aircraft with Pratt and Whitney jet engines rather than the General Electric Turboprops normally used on Boeing aircraft, the announcement said.

UAE seeks more nationals in banks

ABU DHABI (R) — Commercial banks in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), have been asked to employ more UAE nationals, a newspaper said Saturday. The emirates' target is to replace all expatriates with nationals in the UAE's 40 local and foreign banks, the Sharjah-based Al Khaleej newspaper reported. The newspaper quoted deputy governor of the UAE central bank Sheikh Mabrad Ibn Sultan Al Nahyan as saying nationals accounted for only 6.3 per cent of commercial banks staff. "We have asked banks to raise that level to 10 per cent and we hope this will be done before the end of the year," Al Khaleej reported him as saying. "As part of our plan, we have stipulated new bank branches should have 20 per cent of national employees," he said.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Saturday's Central Bank official rates		

Sports**Tyson, King become partners**

NEW YORK (AP) — Heavyweight Boxing Champion Mike Tyson has become a promotional partner of Don King for an upcoming fight card and also has received a \$2 million consultant's "bill" from Donald Trump. The money will go to charities designated by Trump, a wealthy entrepreneur.

"It's a total surprise to me," Tyson's manager, Bill Cayton, said Thursday of his fighter's deal with King — the latest development in the chaotic career of the 22-year-old heavyweight champion.

Tyson said he will be involved with King Promotions, beginning with the lightweight championship bout between Julio Cesar Chavez and Jose Luis

"I have every reason to believe the fight will be held Jan. 14 at Las Vegas, with Mike Tyson's approval," Cayton said.

The fight was originally scheduled for London.

In developments Thursday, Trump revealed his fee was \$2 million in charitable contributions for his services as an adviser to Tyson last summer.

"As per our conversation, I know that you now feel it is time to live up to your promise of making a \$2 million contribution to various charities as selected by me," Trump wrote in a letter dated Oct. 21.

Kersee, Joyner up for Owens award

INDIANAPOLIS (R) — Sisters-in-law Florence Griffith Joyner and Jackie Joyner-Kersee head a list of nine athletes nominated for this year's Jess Owens award, the Athletics Congress (TAC) announced Wednesday. The annual award is presented by TAC, the sport's governing body in the United States, to the nation's top track and field athlete. The winner of the 1988 award, named for the legendary American athlete who won four gold medals at the 1936 Berlin Olympics, will be announced at TAC's convention in Phoenix, Arizona, November 28 through December 3.

Knock out of Sugar Ray Leonard predicted

WINNIPEG (AP) — Donny Lalonde, the world light heavyweight champion, confidently predicts he'll knock out Sugar Ray Leonard when the two square off Nov. 7 in a ring set up in a parking lot behind Caesars Palace in Las Vegas. According to some boxing insiders, a knockout is the only way the blue-eyed, blond-haired Canadian can retain his world boxing council title and add the newly-minted super middleweight crown to his belt collection. "Ray hasn't really knocked out a lot of guys, but he has outpointed many of the best... most of the best," said Shawn O'Sullivan, a retired welterweight and former sparring partner of Leonard's in an interview from Toronto. Leonard, 32, a three-time world champion who is hoping to become the first boxer to win titles in five different weight divisions, has a record of 34 wins and one loss with 24 knockouts. But the 1976 Olympic gold medalist won't be the only opponent Lalonde must beat in the ring.

Coe and Cram re-stage historic race

CAMBRIDGE (R) — Double Olympic champion Sebastian Coe imitated a legendary feat Saturday when he beat a Cambridge University clock's chiming in a race round a cobbled courtyard. In a reconstruction of a famous scene from the Oscar-winning film "Chariots of Fire," Coe raced fellow-Briton Steve Cram around Trinity College's great court as the clock struck noon. But the cheers of 1,500 spectators in the courtyard drowned the final chimes and there was confusion as to whether former 1,500 metres world champion Cram had also beaten the clock. Coe completed the 367-metre, three-cornered course in 45.52 seconds. The only man to have beaten the clock previously was Lord Burghley, the 1928 Olympic 400 metres hurdles champion, who set a time of 46 seconds when he was a student at the university in 1927.

Lopez defeats Molina

SACRAMENTO (AP) — Tony Lopez rallied to successfully defend his junior lightweight title against Juan "John John" Molina Thursday night. The 25-year-old Lopez pleased his hometown fans with a unanimous 12-round decision that preserved his International Boxing Federation junior lightweight title, which he won last July from Rocky Lockridge. Lopez improved his record to 31-1, while the 21-year-old Molina, of Fazardo, Puerto Rico, saw his ring record fall to 18-2.

Belgrade official accuses Roma of exaggerating

BELGRADE (R) — A Belgrade partisan official Saturday accused Italian soccer club Roma of exaggerating reports of trouble at last week's UEFA cup tie between the two sides. "They simply did not expect to lose the match so soundly and are now trying to win it off the field," the Yugoslav club's secretary Zarko Zecevic said. Roma, who lost the Belgrade second-round, first-leg match 4-2, have appealed to the European Football Union (UEFA) to change the result to 3-0 in their favour because of a missile attack on their Captain Giuseppe Giannini.

Drugs are 'hot topic' as world sports leaders meet

LAUSANNE (AP) — A mere month after Ben Johnson lost his Olympic gold in the biggest drug scandal in the history of the games, world sports leaders are meeting to talk about doping.

When "sport and medicine" was chosen in May as the topic for the 22nd congress and general assembly of the General Association of International Sports Federations outside interest was low.

It was expected to be a routine annual meeting, made special only by the association's return to the city of its founding after an 18-year absence.

Then, on Sept. 26, Johnson tested positive for anabolic steroids after winning the 100 metres in a world-record 9.79 seconds in

Cowan, head of the drug lab at London's Kings College, whose subject is listed simply as "anabolic steroids."

One steroid in particular has focused attention on this meeting and two others in the coming weeks.

Johnson tested positive for Stanozolol, a banned muscle builder that had the reputation before Seoul of being undetectable. The Canadian sprinter was one of three athletes caught using the drug at the games.

In all, 10 Olympians were punished for drug use in Seoul, one less than the record 11 caught in Los Angeles four years ago.

Merode has stressed that, because of more participants and broader

testing, the percentage of drug users found in Seoul was much lower than in L.A.

But while more athletes were caught at other times, Johnson was by far the biggest name ever to test positive in the games.

His case is the focus of a government probe in Canada and will be at the centre of discussion in Lausanne and at a UNESCO-sponsored conference of International Sports ministers in Moscow Nov. 21-24, and the IOC's executive board session in Vienna Dec. 7-9.

In Moscow, the ministers will be asked to ratify an IOC-sponsored anti-doping charter, the first step toward government involvement.

RATES

for Oct. 27

MARKET

Volume 100

122,045

560,000

145,003

117,747

98,934

RECTOR

Answer, A

Yesterday's Jumble: HOVEL MOTIF AGENDA ELIXIR

Answer: A jury never works right when it's mis-

fixed!

(Answers tomorrow)

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

HARRIS

BEWARE OF COOTIES

Geez! I skip my shower for one day and you make a big fuss!"

THAT SCRABBLE WORD GAME

by Henn Arnold and Bob Lee

We've all gone out. Your food is in the refrigerator

PHARY

ISTUE

SEIBED

CORTER

WHAT SOME PEOPLE'S HAND-WRITING IS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

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Warsaw Pact proposes 35-nation summit on conventional arms cuts

BUDAPEST (AP) — Warsaw Pact foreign ministers Saturday called for a 35-nation conference to work towards reductions in conventional weapons and the size of armies in both East and West Europe, the state news agency MTI said.

The summit proposal, issued for the first time by the Soviet bloc military alliance, came as the foreign ministers met Saturday, MTI reported.

But the foreign ministers' proposal didn't specify which nations should attend such an all-European summit conference or how it would work within the framework of previously proposed talks only among nations in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and Warsaw Pact alliances.

During Saturday's morning session, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze also briefed the other ministers on West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's recent visit to Moscow, the news agency reported.

The ministers' statement said the European-wide summit

should examine how to reduce the size of armed forces and number of conventional weapons.

The 16 NATO and seven Warsaw Pact countries are now finishing negotiations on a mandate for such talks, which will be part of a final document of the 35-nation Helsinki follow-up conference on security and cooperation in Europe.

Representatives of the two military alliances have failed in 14 years to achieve any results from the mutual and balanced force reduction talks (MBFR) in Vienna.

The review conference began in 1986, but disputes over human rights and other provisions have delayed the conference's conclusion for months.

In their Budapest declaration,



Soviet militiamen form a human chain to cordon off protesters during a recent demonstration by unofficial groups in Moscow

Soviet deputies defy tradition

MOSCOW (AP) — A group of Soviet legislators made history Friday night by casting "no" votes in the traditionally unanimous Supreme Soviet.

The dissenters were only 31 among more than 4,400 legislators, so the measures up for a vote — decrees restricting street demonstrations — passed easily.

Normally, the Supreme Soviet unanimously approves all the proposals handed down by its ruling Praesidium between twice-yearly legislative sessions. The chamber in the grand Kremlin palace is not even equipped with electronic voting equipment. The dissenters simply raised their hands long enough for aides to rush around the auditorium and count.

Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev, who has encouraged free debate in his drive for more democracy, watched from his position on the dais along with other government and Communist Party leaders.

The objections came on a pair of decrees that have been used for the past three months to restrict demonstrations and protests. One gives broad power to control demonstrations to paramilitary police. Protesters have accused the force of beating them.

The vote on that measure was announced to the deputies as 1,348 in favour, 31 opposed, and 24 abstentions. Soviet television reported one less yes vote and only four abstentions. There was no explanation for the discrepancy.

The second law requires advance permission for demonstrations. It has been used to ban any gathering that doesn't meet the approval of local authorities.

That vote was announced to deputies as 1,368 in favour, 13 opposed and four abstentions. Television reported three fewer abstentions.

The broadcast reported the votes without commenting on their rarity.

Despite the deputies' overwhelming support for the two laws, hundreds of them laughed and smiled as Soviet news photographers rushed to record the momentous sight of individual legislators raising their hands to vote "no."

The Supreme Soviet took its first step away from rubber-stamp duties in closed committee meetings in May, when it amended a government proposal on the taxation of cooperatives. However, the final version passed unanimously in the public session.

The Supreme Soviet could move further toward democracy next month when it considers a proposal to hold multiple-candidate elections to a new national parliament.

The leadership apparently had been expecting Friday's dissent, as the two laws were pulled out of a package of Praesidium actions for separate votes.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Supreme Soviet to meet

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet parliament, the Supreme Soviet, will hold a special session at the end of November to discuss reform of the country's state structure and legal system, TASS reported Saturday. The agenda for the session, opening Nov. 29, indicated it might not discuss the constitutional reforms proposed by Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev. Quoting a decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, TASS said the deputies would discuss "improving the structure and activities of the organs of state power and of the legal systems" and "elections of people's deputies." An official calendar for new legislation issued in August said the November session would discuss a draft law on changes to the constitution that would provide for a new-style parliament to be in almost permanent session.

Lisbon embassies to strike

LISBON (AP) — Employees at Portuguese embassies worldwide were called on to begin a week-long strike next Wednesday to protest low pay, the Federation of Public Workers' Unions said Friday. "The strike has been called to protest the foreign ministry's reticence in bringing employees' salaries up to date, and will affect all workers of non-diplomatic status," a spokesman for the federation said. One employee at the Portuguese Embassy in London, who asked not to be identified, said employees had received a call to strike by the federation but did not yet know how they would respond. Embassy employees are owed back pay from months ago and have been promised a 10 per cent pay raise, the worker in London

said. A training mission has discovered nearly 5,000 kilogrammes of cocaine stashed in a cave in the rugged Sierra Madre mountains. Mexican Army Colonel Salvador Bejarano Gomez said Friday the troops came across the cocaine Thursday afternoon near the town of Buenaventura, about 200 kilometres north of Chihuahua, capital of the northern state by the same name. Earlier Friday, the Excelsior news service quoted a federal police commander as saying that police had discovered the cocaine. Excelsior said the drug was worth an estimated \$3 billion. Bejarano said he could not provide an estimate of the value of the cocaine, which was stuffed in large canvas bags. The drug was taken to an army base in Chihuahua and will be destroyed next week. Bejarano said by telephone from Chihuahua. Military officials did not know who hid the cocaine inside the cave and no one was arrested, Bejarano said.

Mrs. Marcos won't flee

HONOLULU (AP) — Imelda Marcos said she invited U.S. officials to fly with her to New York Saturday as proof she would not flee the United States to avoid federal racketeering charges. However, she said she and her husband, deposed Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos, someday expect to return to their homeland. "There are rumours that once airborne and out of radar range, I might flee out of the United States," Mrs. Marcos said in a prepared statement released by a spokesman late Friday. "In order to assure everybody of our desirability, I am inviting the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Federal Aviation Administration to have their men accompany us in the plane," she said. "In addition, I wish to state that since we were brought here, we expect to be brought back to our country as our human right to dignity." U.S. Attorney Dan Bent said no federal officials would accompany Mrs. Marcos on the private jet that a Honolulu tobacco heiress loaned for the 8,000-kilometre journey.

Mexico seizes cocaine

CHIHUAHUA, Mexico (AP) — Army troops on

Club of Rome urges personal responsibility in solving world problems

PARIS (AP) — The Club of Rome ended its 20th anniversary conference Friday with an appeal to people everywhere to take personal responsibility for helping solve the world's problems.

The club, whose 100 members are drawn from 51 countries, made its name with its first report "Limits to Growth," warning of the dangers of the unbounded expansion of consumption and waste.

The four-day conference to mark the anniversary dealt with an array of interrelated problems — hunger, unemployment, overpopulation, pollution, national debts, and others — under the umbrella title, "The Great Transition: Reasons to Live and to Hope in a New Global Society."

"There are reasons to hope, but only if each of us fulfills his responsibility," Secretary-General Bertrand Schneider said, when asked to sum up the conference's conclusions. "Everyone is convinced of his rights. They must be more convinced of their responsibilities and their duties."

He said next year's celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Declaration of the Rights of Man in France was an occasion "to think about the duties and responsibilities of man," especially regarding the poverty still rampant in most of the world.

The club did not adopt resolutions or issue formal statements, but club President Alexander King of Britain summarised the meeting in a closing speech, and King and Schneider gave their impressions of the sense of the conference at a news conference.

"All these things are very easy to say and very, very difficult to do anything about," King told reporters.

Speakers at the sessions included Michel Camdessus, director-general of the International Monetary Fund, former President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and such club members as Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, former Swiss President Kurt Furgler and Nobel Prize-winning chemist Ilya Prigogine of the Free University of Brussels and the University of Texas.

Bad omens haunt Dukakis

PLEASANT HILLS (R) — A half dozen buzzards soared ominously over the podium at Diablo Valley College where Michael Dukakis was telling supporters not to give up hope of a comeback victory Nov. 8.

The birds circled for a few moments above the Democratic presidential candidate, then flew off.

The incident was one in a series of bad omens that have touched the Massachusetts governor's campaign since his lacklustre performance in the second presidential debate two weeks ago.

National opinion polls show him far behind the Republican candidate, Vice-President George Bush, with time running out in the campaign. Other surveys show him trailing by about three-to-one in estimates of the

state-by-state electoral vote that will actually determine the election.

Comedians have made him the subject of ridicule and political pundits have been writing post-mortems about what went wrong.

"His travelling press corps is measuring the corpse for the shroud," wrote David Nyhan of the Boston Globe.

But now, only 10 days before voters make their decision, Dukakis has honed a cutting message depicting Bush as spokesman of the rich who has twisted and distorted his rival's record for political gain.

Dukakis' aides say their candidate has finally seized the initiative and their internal polls show voters gravitating towards him — a finding not confirmed by independent polls.

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